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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

Held on the 11th May, 1861.

COLONEL SYKES, M.P.

PRESIDENT,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE following Report of the Council was read by the Secretary :—

Last year it became the duty of the Council to report to the members of the Society at the anniversary meeting the liabilities to which they were reduced in consequence of the diminution of one-half, made by the authorities of the India Office, in the donation of two hundred guineas per annum, formerly granted to the Society by the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company, and continued in 1858, by Lord Stanley. The Council then promised to give the subject full consideration, though they could scarcely hope to make up so large a sum by any diminution of expenditure, while they also laboured under the disadvantage of the Society's income not being adequate to carry on its publications in an efficient manner.

The Society's House, taken thirteen years ago on the faith of the permanency of the grant by the Home Government of India, and costing the Society for rent, rates, &c., nearly four hundred pounds a-year, appeared to the Council to offer an item of expenditure, on which, by some judicious change, a material saving could be effected ; whereas the items of salaries, printing, and miscellaneous expenses were already reduced to a minimum.

It was conceived that, connected as are the researches of the Society with India, it might be possible to obtain from the authori-

ties of the India Office, a set of apartments in the building to which the Museum of the East India Company has been removed. The Council caused a letter to be addressed, in consequence, to the Secretary of State for India, offering (subject to the approval of the Society at large) to add our Museum and Library to those of the India House, if apartments could be given to the Society for the transaction of its business. This proposal was, however, pronounced to be, for the present, impracticable, by reason of the temporary nature of the arrangements made for the reception of the museum and library of the East India Company.

That source of relief to the Society's funds having failed, the Council requested three of its members to form themselves into a Committee for the purpose of inquiring into the financial position and prospects of the Society, and of pointing out any methods which might occur to them for ameliorating its condition.

Those gentlemen have recently presented their Report to the Council, in which they state, that from an examination of the accounts of the last few years, and of estimates for this year and next, they are led to recommend: 1stly, that, in order to pay off all liabilities this year which have gradually accumulated, to enable the Council to attempt a quarterly publication of the journal, and to leave a moderate balance in the bankers' hands, with the whole income of 1862 available for meeting the expenditure of that year, the sale of about £600 from our funded assets be effected; and, 2ndly, that, to lessen the load of our house-rent, without incurring the very heavy expense that would attend a removal to another house, or even to apartments, the lower floor of our house be let off (with permission from the landlord) to a Society or professional gentleman.

Your Council have, therefore, sanctioned the sale of £606 19s. 5d., Consols, by your trustees, for the uses of the Society, in such portions as shall secure the least loss of dividends. So that in future the amount of our funded property will be £1,200, Consols, instead of £1,806 19s. 5d.

They have also considered in its various bearings the question of letting off the lower floor of the house. In connexion with that subject, it may be useful to mention here, that having recently heard it had been resolved by the Council for India to commence forthwith the erection of a building for the permanent reception of the library and museum of the India House, your Council applied to the Secretary of State for India to be received by him as a deputation on the part of the Society, with a view to press on his consideration an arrangement by which we might be accommodated in the new building.

Sir Charles Wood very kindly received the deputation on the 27th of April, and an address to the above effect was read to him. Having first objected that no such resolution as the one alluded to had been yet adopted, he proceeded, after some conversation, to state his own views as held at present, viz.: That perhaps the East India museum and that of the Society might, advantageously for the public, be transferred to the new museum at South Kensington; while the three libraries of the East India House, Haileybury, and Board of Control, now belonging to the India Office, together with that of the Society, might, perhaps, be amalgamated in some manner to be determined upon by mutual agreement, and either accommodated together in the new building projected, or in the Society's house, or, under conditions to be specially negotiated, transferred together to the library of the British Museum.

Sir Charles terminated with a promise to communicate further with the Society, begging that what he had mentioned might be pondered over by the Council. It was specially stated by Sir H. Rawlinson that the presentation of the address was a preliminary step on the part of the Council, as the Society at large could alone determine on any arrangement that might ultimately be proposed. Sir Charles Wood also requested, that what he had said should be taken, for the present, as mere preliminary conversation.

Whatever beneficial arrangement these tentatives may finally lead to, it is evident that at present an equilibrium between the receipts and expenditure of the Society can only be effected by reducing our house-rent. The Council recommend, therefore, that, in accordance with the views set forth in the Report of their Finance Committee, the lower floor of your house be let off as soon as a suitable offer be made for it.

Taking, furthermore, into consideration the large deficit in the year's estimate, as above touched upon, your Council appealed, some little time back, for temporary assistance to the body of Members who have compounded for their subscriptions. This appeal was founded on the consideration that compounded Members have a life interest in the welfare of the Society. It has been responded to by General Briggs, Sir H. Rawlinson, Captain W. J. Eastwick, Sir E. Colebrooke, Bt., and Beriah Botfield, Esq., for three guineas each annually; by Sir C. Hopkinson, K.C.B., for two guineas annually from next year; by R. Hunter, Esq., for one guinea annually; by W. Spottiswoode, Esq., in a donation of ten guineas; and by W. Platt, Esq., in a donation of five pounds.

To each of these gentlemen your Council have returned thanks in the name of the Society, and now put on record in this especial manner a distinct mention of their liberality. Their names will also

be preceded by a distinguishing mark in our future printed lists. Others, though not acceding to this appeal, as addressed to compounded Members alone, have expressed their willingness to join in a more general measure, if adopted by the Society at large. This latter question has, however, been left by your Council for future consideration, when a more correct insight into the results of recent measures can be obtained.

With a view to making the objects of the Society more generally known, and thereby attracting a greater amount of public support, a circular was issued by your Council early in the year. This, it is hoped, has not been without a certain degree of effect, and it may still be useful if introduced to the notice of those whom it may be desirable to enrol among our Members. In this circular, mention was made of the re-constitution of our Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, and of the resolution to publish our Journal quarterly. A number of gentlemen have consented to act on that Committee, but its definitive constitution and action remain yet to be discussed in Council. The quarterly publication of the Journal, too, as a permanency, must depend on the financial ability of the Society to meet the extra expense it will occasion, and on the receipt of sufficient matter from our literary contributors.

The progress of the Society in regard to the number of its Members is not altogether unsatisfactory, as the elections of new Members, resident and non-resident, preponderate over the deaths and retirements. There have been elected since the last anniversary, 33 Residents and 9 Non-Residents, 7 more candidates having also been proposed for admission, while 13 Residents and 2 Non-Residents have died; 8 Residents have retired, and 4 Non-Residents were struck off the list at the anniversary. The total loss in numbers is, therefore, 21 Resident and 6 Non-Resident Members, leaving a balance of 12 Resident and 5 Non-Resident Members on the list in excess of those of last year. As, however, three of those lost to us had compounded, two others were in abeyance, and one was an original subscribing member, the money loss to the Society is only 46 guineas against 108, leaving thus a clear gain of 62 guineas per annum in our resources. A larger amount is, however, required to enable the Council to carry out vigorously the different plans it has had under consideration; and they can only appeal to existing members to continue their efforts to enlist in our support gentlemen of station, or ladies also, who take an interest in the varied relations of England with Asia.*

* *Elections.*—Residents :—J. White, Esq.; Earl de Grey and Ripon; J. W. Nelson, Esq.; Major J. G. Stephen; W. de Salis, Esq.; M. Gore, Esq.; Carl Engel, Esq.; R. W. Duggan, Esq.; E. Hamilton, Esq.;

Among the names of Original Members of the Society, whose deaths have been recorded during the past twelve months, that of the late Earl of Aberdeen, commands our respect from the eminent and long-continued services it was his lot to render to the nation as a Minister of the Crown, and as England's representative abroad in critical times, after having gained, in his younger days, considerable renown as an accomplished scholar and a man of taste.

WILLIAM HOOK MORLEY, Esq., our late Librarian, to which office he was elected at the anniversary meeting of 1859, became a Resident Member of the Society on the 17th April, 1847. He was an accomplished scholar, and possessed an extensive knowledge of Arabic and Persian literature. This, together with his having studied for the legal profession, so as to have been called to the bar in 1840, eminently fitted him for the production of his interesting work, "On the Mahomedan laws prevalent in India," and on other still more useful and important legal works referring to the administration of justice in our great eastern empire.

His work on Astrolabes, his catalogue of the Arabic and Persian Manuscripts in the Society's Library, his book on "The Coins of the Atabak Princes of Syria and Asia Minor," are also well known, and do honour to the industry and knowledge of the author.

E. R. Power, Esq.; R. D. Parker, Esq.; H. Pratt, Esq.; R. Dalglish, Esq.; Viscount Pevensey, M.P.; T. Dent, Esq.; Capt. W. Osborne; W. Balton, Esq.; G. R. Haywood, Esq.; W. W. Cargill, Esq.; R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P.; A. B. Mackintosh, Esq.; Lord Rollo; W. Gladstone, Esq.; T. Stewart Gladstone, Esq.; J. Waddell, Esq.; M. E. G. Duff, Esq., M.P.; A. C. Brice, Esq.; J. Pilkington, Esq., M.P.; W. G. Goodliffe, Esq.; T. Harden, Esq.; A. Smith, Esq.; A. Spottiswoode, Esq.; P. B. Smollett, Esq., M.P.

Non-Residents:—Thos. G. Knox, Esq.; Professor F. Hall; Col. A. Burnell; Prince Frederick of Holstein; E. Strickland, Esq.; Capt. C. D. Cameron; L. Oliphant, Esq.; Mirza Ja'fer Khan; G. W. Leitner, Esq.

Deaths:—Lord Aberdeen; H. Alexander, Esq., C.; J. Macwhirter, Esq., C.; H. Porcher, Esq., C.; *Original*. W. B. Bayley, Esq., 1832; Maj.-Gen. W. Miles, 1834; Lt.-Gen. Goodfellow, 1837; J. Malcolmson, Esq., 1837; Lord Elphinstone, 1843 A.; Major J. A. Moore, 1844; Major-General Dickinson, 1844; W. H. Morley, Esq., 1847; Maj. C. D. Macpherson, 1850, A.; *Resident*. G. Buist, Esq., 1845; W. de Normann, Esq., 1859; *Non-Resident*. N. Kerr, Esq.; C. Kelaart, Esq.; *Corresponding*. Professor Kosgarten, *Foreign*.

Retirements:—W. Gausen, Esq., 1852; H. Moore, Esq., 1849; Dr. J. D. Macbride, 1855; R. T. Weymouth, Esq., 1851; R. F. Remington, Esq., 1852; Sir F. Currie, 1855; J. Alger, Esq., 1856; Rev. R. E. Tyrwhit, 1858; *Resident*.

He died at the early age of 45, and oriental literature was thus prematurely deprived of the services of one whose march in its cause was ever onwards.

WILLIAM DE NORMANN, Esq., whose perfidious capture and cruel death in the hands of the Chinese excited universal indignation and regret, became a Non-Resident Member of the Society in 1859, previously to his leaving this country with the Embassy to China. During the few years that he had paid attention to the east, and to oriental languages, and while being at the same time occupied partly with military duties in the Crimean and Bulgarian campaigns against Russia, and partly in diplomatic service at Constantinople, and under Colonel Simmons in determining the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia, Mr. de Normann had given proof of great abilities, and had also acquired the esteem of all who knew him. His early death must, therefore, be felt as a special loss to the Society, which is thus called upon to record its corporate sympathy for the fate of so promising a member.

LORD ELPHINSTONE is another of our members whose name has to be recorded in the deaths of the past year. Nephew to the illustrious Mountstuart Elphinstone, whose name was contained in our last obituary, and a more detailed memoir of whose life and opinions, written by a friend and fellow member, will add an interest to the forthcoming part of our Journal, Lord Elphinstone has himself achieved considerable distinction.

He was born in 1807, and succeeded his father, the 12th Baron Elphinstone, of the Peerage of Scotland, in 1813. He was educated partly at Eton and partly in Germany. He served in the Horse Guards, and became one of the Lords in Waiting to William the Fourth, in 1832. He held this office until his appointment to the Government of Madras, in 1836.

The only public event of importance which occurred during his administration of that Presidency, was the annexation of the State of Kurnoul, in consequence of the discovery of the stores of arms, &c., accumulated by the Chief.

Lord Elphinstone resigned the Government, and returned to England in 1842, went back in 1845 to visit an estate he had purchased in Ceylon, and from thence proceeded to join Lord Hardinge's camp, on the Sutledj. On the commencement of the first Sikh war, he arrived in camp shortly after the battle of Sobraon, and accompanied the army into the Punjab.

Upon the conclusion of peace, he travelled through Cashmere and Thibet to Ladakh, accompanied by the present Lord Hardinge and Colonel Bates.

He has left a most interesting journal of these travels.

Upon his return to England, in 1847, he was again appointed one of the Lords in Waiting. He continued to take a great interest in Indian affairs, assisting in the Parliamentary inquiries in 1852 and 1853, and gave valuable evidence before the Committees of both Houses of Parliament, in the former year.

He was appointed to the Government of Bombay in 1853. The great services he rendered to the empire, during the mutiny in India are fresh in the public recollection, and were acknowledged by the thanks of the Sovereign and both Houses of Parliament.

He retired from the Government in 1860, with a reputation that would have insured him further and, perhaps, higher employment; but his health was shattered by the effects of labour and climate, and he returned to England but to die.

He sank, after a short illness, in July, 1860. Shortly before his death he was raised to the British Peerage, in recognition of his public services, and the natives of Bombay have joined in a subscription to raise a statue to his memory.

Among the Honorary Members, the death of His Majesty Frederick-William the Fourth, King of Prussia, has occurred since the last anniversary meeting.

JOHANN GOTTFRIED LUDWIG KOSEGARTEN was born in 1792, at Altenkirchen, in the island of Rugen. He received his early education chiefly from the poet Arnalt, and from his father, Ludwig Kosegarten, a German savant and poet, not much known in England, but who was a student of English literature, as he showed by translating Richardson's "Clarissa Harlowe." After young Kosegarten's home education was finished, he studied at the University of Griefswald during four years, and acquired there a decided bent towards Eastern languages. This led him to Paris in 1811, where he learned Arabic and Persian, under Sylvester de Sacy, and Turkish and Armenian under native teachers. He also acquired a fair knowledge of Sanskrit, chiefly by his own researches, but aided probably by Mons. de Chezy, who was one of the earliest continental students of Sanskrit, and who had given Kosegarten lessons in Persian. He returned in 1814 to Griefswald, where he was subsequently appointed Professor in Theology and Philosophy. In 1817 he was named Professor of Oriental languages at the University of Jena, but he returned finally to Griefswald in 1824.

Kosegarten's publications are numerous. He edited a poem of the "Mu'allakat," in 1818, and in 1822 he printed, at Stutgardt, an edition and translation of Nakhshabi's "Tuti-Nama." In the same

year he published a translation of the celebrated Sanskrit episode of "Nala," known to England by Dr. Millman's elegant version. His edition of the Karaite Aaron ben Elihu's "Commentary on the Pentateuch," appeared at Jena in 1824. Amongst his other publications are the *Chrestomathia Arabica*, Leipzig, 1828; a portion of the famous history of Tabari, with a translation, at Griefswald, 1831; the collection of Arabic Poems, called "*Kitabu-'l-Aghani*," Griefswald, 1846; the "*Panchatantra*," at Bonn, in 1845; and the Poems of the "*Huzaylis*," with a translation, in 1854. Of other than his Oriental works, we may mention an edition of the ancient Pomeranian Chronicle of Kantzow; the ancient Monuments of Pomerania and Rugen; the History of the University of Griefswald; a new edition of his father's poems; and a Dictionary of the Ancient and Modern Dutch, which was commenced at Griefswald in 1856, and we believe is not finished.

Two very important donations have been made to the Library during the past year by distinguished Members of the Society. One is the concluding Part and a separate Index to Mr. Muir's work on Original Sanskrit Texts on the Origin and Progress of the Religion and Institutions of India; the second is a lithographed fac-simile of the *Manava-Kalpa-Sutra*, with two Prefaces, by Professor Goldstücker.

The object of the first of these learned works is, as expressed by the author in the preface to the first volume, "to form a collection of passages relating to the origin, progress, and institutions of India, which are scattered throughout the Sanskrit authors,—to translate them into English, and to connect, compare, and illustrate them by critical and explanatory remarks. . . . The collection is mainly intended for the use of those Hindus who wish to become critically acquainted with the foundation on which their ancestral religion reposes; and of other persons who are either concerned in the education of Indian youth, or whose business it may be to inculcate true conclusions in regard to the various subjects which will be here brought under examination."

In the preface to the second volume, the learned author informs his readers that its general object is "to prove that the Hindus were not indigenous in India, but have immigrated into that country from Central Asia, where their ancestors at one time formed one community with the progenitors of the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Germans, &c."

In the third volume, Mr. Muir has considered more particularly the history of the Vedas, regarded as the Sacred Scriptures of the

Hindus and the inspired source *from* which their religious and philosophical system, (though, to a great extent, founded also on reasoning and speculation,) profess to be mainly derived; or with which, at least, they all pretend to be in harmony. "I only attempt to show" (he continues,) "what are the opinions on the subject of the Veda, which have been entertained by certain distinct sets of writers:—the Mythological, the Scholastic, and the Vedic."

The author terminates his preface to the third volume in these words: "I have stated above that my primary design in the composition of this work, has been to aid the researches of Indian students and their European preceptors. But the volume, with all its imperfections, may, perhaps, also possess a certain interest for the divine and the philosopher, as furnishing a few documents to illustrate the course of theological opinion in a sphere far removed from the ordinary observation of the European student."

Of the second of the two above-mentioned works we are informed by the Professor, in his first preface to the same, that he discovered the manuscript of it in the Library of the East India House, among a collection formerly belonging to Mr. Colebrooke. It bore marked on it a false title, which may have prevented its being examined at an earlier period. It was entitled, in Sanskrit characters, as a Commentary of Kumārila on the Rīgveda; but proved to be, in reality, a portion of the Mānava-Kalpa-Sūtras, together with a Commentary of Kumārila-Swāmīn, the great Mīmāṃsā authority.

On this, Professor Goldstücker remarks:—"A discovery of this ritual work, which had thus remained latent under a wrong designation, would at all times have been welcome to those engaged in the study of Vaidik literature; it gained an interest from the facts that a doubt had been raised, I do not know on what grounds, whether a copy of it had survived, and that a commentary of Kumārila on these Sūtras, had, so far as my knowledge goes, never yet been spoken of in any European or Sanskrit book."

The Professor resolved to publish a fac-simile of this book, and this was executed in lithography by "a talented young lady, Miss Amelia Rattenbury, who, while devoting herself to the study of Sanskrit, came to the Professor's rescue, and, with much patience and skill, accomplished the tracing."

"The interest," says the Professor, "connected with the present volume, centres chiefly in the commentary of Kumārila, and in the fact itself that it is this great Mīmāṃsā writer who composed a commentary on the Mānava-Sūtras of the Taittirīya-Samhitā. . . . It would seem, therefore, . . . that the Kālpa-Sūtras of the Taittirīya-Samhitā represented, or countenanced, more than

other Kalpa-Sûtras, the tenets and decisions of the Mîmāṃsā philosophers."

"This intimate connexion between the two will enable us . . . to remove all doubt, . . . , as to the identity of the author of the present commentary with the author of the Varttrikas on the Jaimini-Sûtras,—"

"It is not a commentary in the ordinary sense, . . . ; it is often nothing else than a regular discussion and refutation of divergent opinions which were probably expressed in other Kalpa works."

* * * * *

"To assign a date to the Mānava-Kalpa-Sûtras, even approximately, is a task I am incapable of performing; . . . it may seem plausible to assert that they are more recent than the Sûtras of Baudhāyana and older than those of Apastamba. But I have not any means of ascertaining when these latter works were composed."

" . . . they were younger than Pānini; or, at least, not so much preceding his time as to be ranked by him amongst the old Kalpa works. . . . And when I express the opinion that there is no tenable ground for assigning to Pānini so recent a date as . . . the middle of the fourth century before Christ; but that there is, on the contrary, a presumption that he preceded the time of the founder of the Buddhistic creed,—I have advanced as much, . . . as I believe can be safely advanced on the date of the present Kalpa work."

In the second preface to the work the learned Professor criticises and combats the opinion expressed by Professor Max Müller in his "History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature," that "before the time of Pānini, and before the first spreading of Buddhism in India, writing for literary purposes was absolutely unknown;" and concludes by deciding that "Pānini not only *wrote*, but *writing* was a main element in the *technical* arrangement of his rules, . . ."

He also discusses in detail the very important "question of the introduction of writing into India, and the general question of the chronology of Vaidik works."

The Council is enabled to congratulate the Society on the completion and publication of the first volume of the Cuneiform Inscriptions prepared by our learned Vice-president, Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B., who has applied his stores of erudition, and devoted so much time and labour to this valuable work. The present instalment of a most extensive publication will put a select portion of the most interesting historical monuments of Assyria and Babylon

into the hands of Semitic scholars. The volume contains seventy large lithographed plates of inscriptions, ranging from the brief legends on the bricks of the earliest Chaldean kings, which we cannot place lower than 2,000 B.C., to the genuine edicts of the first Assyrian monarchs, and thenceforward in a continued series to those of the successors of Nebuchadnezzar.

More than sixty of these are strictly historical ; they record the warlike expeditions and the architectural achievements of the Princes of Nineveh and Babylon for eight centuries. A paragraph from the introduction to the volume, gives a short summary of its contents.—“The inscriptions in this volume,” it is said, “record the names and titles of twenty-five of the early monarchs of Chaldea, previous to the rise of the Assyrian Empire ; of about thirty Assyrian monarchs between the 13th and the 6th century B.C. ; and of five Babylonian kings who reigned from the fall of Nineveh to the taking of Babylon by Cyrus the Great. Some hundreds of kings are also named who reigned over different portions of Western Asia contemporaneously with the sovereigns of Ur, Nineveh, and Babylon.”

The editor has completed great part of a second volume, to contain further historical monuments and many of the fragmentary slabs which consist of lists of articles of a most miscellaneous nature, forms of nouns, conjugations of verbs, and other curious matter in the Semitic language of Assyria and the older Turanian dialect of the country, which will be of high interest to the philologist, and enable investigators to study the earlier inscriptions which have as yet been hardly examined.

Sir Henry Rawlinson is preparing interlineary versions of the published inscriptions, to accompany the work ; and the Council trusts that he will allow free translations, accompanied by notes elucidating the geography and history of those remote periods, to appear in future volumes of the Society's Journal.

Our distinguished member, W. H. Fox Talbot, Esq., has also continued his most valuable labours in preparing independent translations of inscriptions found among the Assyrian and Babylonian antiquities in the British Museum. In the course of the year he has deposited in the hands of the Council, at different dates, four sealed packets of the results of his investigations. These will be opened and examined when the authorities of the British Museum are enabled to publish the cuneiform texts of the inscriptions to which they relate.

The Oriental Translation Fund regret that the state of their funds has prevented them from publishing any works during the past year. They have it, however, in contemplation to remodel and popularize the Society by reducing the subscription for large paper copies from ten guineas to five guineas, and for small paper copies from five guineas to three guineas annually. And in the hope of extending their sphere of usefulness, they have determined to place the available copies of works already distributed among their own members within the means of Oriental students, by reducing the cost of their publications to a minimum; and, as an experiment in this direction, the Committee have instructed their agents to offer their publications for sale at prices calculated upon this principle.

The Committee, under these circumstances, invite the support of all who feel an interest in the important subject of Oriental literature, to enable them to complete the works still in progress, to take up many of the valuable unpublished works now at their disposal, and to continue their efforts in the course of usefulness so auspiciously commenced.

AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 1860.

"The Auditors have the pleasure to report that they have carefully examined the Accounts for the past year, and have found them quite correct.

"The receipts are £238 11s. 9d. more than in 1859, of which £105 is due to the Government donation for the latter year being included in the receipts for 1860; leaving £28 11s. 9d. for increase of subscriptions, &c. The general expenses are much the same as in former years; but the additional expense of printing and lithography, being £169 11s. 4d., paid in 1860, but partly incurred in former years, has reduced the balance at the bankers' to £26 8s. 6d.

The liabilities of the Society to 31st December, 1860, were as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Printers' bills	209	5	3
Lithography	20	9	0
Stationer's bill	9	6	9
One quarter's rent to Christmas.....	70	0	0
Parochial rates	35	8	4
Painting outside the house	35	17	3
	<hr/>		
	£380	6	7

The Society's funded property at the same date was, as at the last audit, £1,806 19s. 5d. Consols.

Auditors for the } CHAS. GUBBINS,
Society, } E. RAWDON POWER.

Auditor for Council, FRED. FINCHAM.

The above two Reports having been read, the President offered a few remarks on the chief subjects they embraced. He also observed that it would be well if a greater number of the compounded Members would reconstitute themselves Subscribers, so that the Society might possess more ample means to pursue its investigations and publish its Journal frequently.

J. C. MARSHMAN, Esq., regretted the low state of the Society's funds, and would exceedingly regret the dispersion of either the library or museum. Expressing the hope that continued efforts would be made to place the Society in a satisfactory financial position, and that those efforts would be successful, he begged to propose the following resolution :

“ That the Report of the Council, as also that of the Auditors, be received, printed, and distributed ; and that the thanks of the Society be expressed to the Auditors for their investigation of our accounts ”

CAPTAIN W. J. EASTWICK, in seconding the resolution, addressed the meeting as follows :

I beg to second the vote of thanks to the Auditors proposed by my honourable friend, and I cordially join in the hope expressed by him, that their next year's labours will show a better state of the funds and increasing prosperity of the Society. I have always taken great interest in the Society; and when I had more spare time, I was a regular attendant at the meetings, and derived both gratification and instruction from the papers read, from the discussions, and more especially from meeting those who had a kindred feeling in the study of the languages and literature of India. In reference to what the President has stated as to applications having been made to those Members of the Society who have compounded for their subscriptions, I beg to intimate my intention of waiving my exemption, and becoming again an annual subscriber of three guineas. I will do my utmost also to obtain new Members. I believe a great deal can be done by individual Members exerting themselves amongst their friends with this object. Allusion has been made to the depu-

tation to Sir Charles Wood. Mr. Prinsep and I were present at the interview; and although, as the meeting has been told, Sir Charles declined to give any definite reply, and stated that the conversation must be considered as merely preliminary, and that the Council of India must be consulted before any final arrangement was made, my impression certainly was that he viewed with favour the objects of the Society (particularly as regards the library and MSS. affording means of study to Oriental scholars), and would not be disinclined to promote them within reasonable limits. The President has also alluded to the recent diminution in the grant made to the Society by the Council of India, from that formerly made by the Court of Directors and by Lord Stanley. I have no hesitation in saying, that I regret this as much as any Member of the Society; and if, as has been suggested, another application is made, it shall have my earnest advocacy. I think it very desirable that a concise statement of the aims and objects of the Society should be forwarded to each member of the Council of India, what the Society has done, and what it proposes to do. On national and public grounds, I consider the Asiatic Society is well entitled to the support of Government. Its labours and researches are devoted to the acquisition and diffusion of knowledge calculated to make us better acquainted with the languages, history, manners, and customs of the millions of Asiatics placed by Providence under British sway, and with the capabilities and resources of that vast empire which has been recently brought closer to us by a more intimate tie. I do think it would be a reproach to our countrymen, and especially to those who are more immediately connected with India, if an institution which has done so much, which has numbered amongst its Members so many honoured names, and which has acquired an European reputation, should not meet with that encouragement which it has a right to expect.

SIR HENRY RAWLINSON, K. C. B., explained to the meeting that the recommendation by the Council to sanction the letting of the lower floor of the Society's house to an eligible tenant, as contained in the Annual Report, would merely engage the Society at large to place the consideration of that question in the hands of the Council, to be adopted only in case no other mode could be found of improving the Society's financial condition to the required extent.

The motion was then unanimously adopted.

SIR T. EDWARD COLEBROOKE, Bt., M.P., moved the next resolution, viz.:

"That, Colonel Sykes being about to vacate the office of Pre-

sident, by reason of the expiry of his term, this meeting is desirous to express its sense of his unwearied exertions to promote the interests of the Society." In doing so he remarked that, having been a Member of the Council, he had had opportunities of witnessing the exertions of Colonel Sykes during his period of office, and that he had been indefatigable in his attendance, and in striving to promote the interests of the Society. The President's last year of office had been one of difficulties; and though he (Sir Edward) did not agree with him in describing the position of the Society as disastrous, still there was much room for the anxiety felt by him. However, by the use of exertions corresponding to those employed by Colonel Sykes, the Society might hope to retrieve its position.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL J. BRIGGS, F.R.S., in seconding the motion, followed the mover in his commendations of the services of the gallant and worthy President now going out of office.

He thanked him in the name of the Society for his late exertions to improve its condition, and he trusted that he would not relax in those efforts which his position, as a Member of Parliament, enabled him to make, as opportunities occurred, in communicating with Her Majesty's Ministers and others who might be able to assist him.

In alluding to the idea of incorporating the Library of the Society with some other general library, such as that of the British Museum, the gallant member strongly protested against any such measure. The Library, he observed, had been collected in a series of years by the Society, and contained the contributions of the most distinguished Oriental scholars in the world,—part of which contributions were those of our own eminent Members. These contributions were not only received by the admiration of our own countrymen, but had met with high approbation and appreciation on the continent of Europe. He trusted, therefore, that no such measure would be suffered to take place with the consent of the Society, but that it would continue to flourish and meet with additional support as a separate body.

The motion having been unanimously adopted, COLONEL SYKES briefly returned thanks for the vote and for the manner in which it had been proposed. He regretted that his exertions had not been attended with better success; but he had given his best endeavours to the cause of the Society, and had sedulously attended all its meetings.

N. B. E. BAILLIE, Esq., moved, C. GUBBINS, Esq., seconded, and it was carried unanimously,

“That the Meeting do hereby tender its thanks to the Vice-Presidents and Council, for the manner in which they have laboured to further the interests of the Society during the past year.”

THE RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE, as senior Vice-President present, rose to acknowledge the gratifying compliment paid to the Vice-Presidents and Council ; in the first place, expressing his regret that it should have fallen to him to do so, and not to some one who could better establish a claim to the thanks of the Society. He felt strongly how little he had been able to promote the objects of the Society in comparison with others, and especially with his distinguished friend now present (Sir H. Rawlinson), who, he regretted to say, was about to retire from the office of Vice-President, under the operation of the general rule that regulated the term for which it was held ; but whose services, he trusted, they would secure as one of the Council about to be elected.

Though his health and other circumstances had, he feared, rendered him a very inefficient Officer of the Society, he could assure them that no member of their Executive felt a warmer interest in its prosperity. It was, therefore, with much satisfaction that he was able to look forward to its future condition with somewhat better hopes than might be justified by the present state of the finances. Their numbers were increasing, and he hoped that, gradually, a more general interest would be taken by the public, and public men, of England in the objects to which their labours were directed, when it was seen and understood that those objects embraced not merely the literature and antiquities of the East (highly interesting as these must be to every well-informed mind, and influencing, as they did, the sentiments of the people of the present day), but every fact relating to man and nature, throughout the regions of Asia, which could interest the scholar, the politician, and the merchant. It was to be regretted that the people of England had generally regarded the Society merely as a body associated for literary research, and that its importance and value as a centre of information on all the points with which Englishmen, desirous of really knowing Asia, must seek to acquaint themselves, had not been recognized ; so that, even when a Committee was some years ago established, for the express purpose of investigating the agricultural and commercial resources of India, and making known to India all that England wanted, and to England all that India could supply ; and of pointing out all the circumstances that tended to hinder a full and free interchange of benefits between the two countries whose interests were one, it attracted little of the attention, and still less of the support